

# 8BIT

## THE MAGAZINE FOR ALL 8-BIT COMPUTER USERS

ISSUE 9

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### EDITOR'S COLUMN - ISSUE 9

This issue is a bit of a special on the new 8-bit computer from Amstrad; a significant event, whichever computer you use, and 8BIT has all the latest news (again).

If 8BIT is a little thinner this time it is because I am re-negotiating my printing bill. I hope to avoid an increase but if it comes to a choice of poorer quality and less pages in future or a higher price, then higher price it will be, I'm afraid.

Oh dear. *Neither* of the competitions in the last issue drew a single entry so I am extending the deadline and the first postal entry for either wins the prize. Fair enough?

I still haven't finished collating the recent readership survey results, so that still remains 'to follow later', but some good news is that the IEBA's 8-bit Directory will be sent out in December thanks to all John Walker's sterling work so *that* will be a good Christmas present for their members.

All in all, things continue to look very rosy in the 8-bit world so, as we enter 1996, I hope things are as positive for you. Already my new year resolutions are to include more pictures and also complete the Home Publishing series. I believe that represents a realistic target. Oh yes, and make 8BIT about 70% better overall too. Well, I have got all year to do it in.

Brian Watson

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## THE BIG STORY - PCW16, a new 8-bit computer from Amstrad.

Without apology, much of this issue is given over to the new 8-bit computer. For reference, an extract from the latest Amstrad Direct catalogue is included (used with permission of Amstrad). What is the significance for 8-bit computing, and is it a computer *you* should consider buying? First, 8BIT brings you points of view from two current PCW users, then the 8BIT view. To minimise duplication, because space is limited, and as some of the views originally expressed have been overtaken by events, both Mike Elliston's and Ed Harris's comments have been condensed.

### 1) THE NEW AMSTRAD PCW16 by Mike Elliston

In the Editor's column of the October issue of 8BIT Brian Watson comments on the changes on the 8-bit scene over the last few months and finishes his article with "Now all we need is a new 8-bit computer from Amstrad, just in time for Christmas." Perhaps Brian needs to polish up his crystal ball just a little for in the next post arrived the Amstrad Direct catalogue with (tucked away at the back) news of the new Personal Computer Word Processor, the PCW16.

The machine looks like a souped-up version of the PCW9512 with a more rounded case, a single disk drive slot and a 12" paper white monitor. The keyboard is a PC style 102-key layout except that the four f9-f12 keys are coloured blue, yellow, green and red respectively and a three-button mouse comes supplied. At the rear are standard parallel and serial interfaces; on the front a simple on/off switch, the disk drive button and contrast and brightness controls.

What is missing from the traditional PCW set-up on the basic PCW16 is a printer but at £299+VAT (£369 incl. VAT and delivery) you can't really complain, especially as many existing computer users have added an external printer to their existing machine. It is also available with a bubblejet printer for £399+VAT (£498 incl.) which, considering that the BJ-30 is usually £169+, gives you a bubblejet bargain for £100+, or the option of the PCW16 plus an OKI OL400w laser printer at £499+ (£616 incl.), again a bargain as this printer is normally £269+ on its own. Both printers can be used with almost any other computers you may have or buy in the future. Most "suitable" printers can be connected via the parallel or serial ports.

The PCW16 comes with 1mb of non-volatile memory and software: word-processor, spreadsheet, address book, diary/alarm clock, calculator and a document filing system. All these are loaded upon purchase then are instantly there at switch-on. What is unclear is whether you can run any other PCW CP/M programs (see below-BW). The opening screen is reminiscent of the Network, not surprisingly because it was designed by Creative Technology of Network fame. I note that throughout PCW is used but on screen it is spelled with a small "c". The clock displays not only hours and minutes but seconds too. This is new on a PCW and is a feature only available until now on PCs. Does the '16' imply a 16-bit chip? No, I can confirm that a Z80 is still at the heart of this release (but it's a Z80B, clocked at 16Mhz so running 4 times as fast as an old PCW without a sprinter fitted, and twice as fast as that!-BW)

The programs can be clicked with the mouse or a key. The six function keys f1-f6 are pre-installed and these are arrayed, in a bright plum colour, along the top row of the keyboard. At the very top of the front end screen on a Windows style navigation strip are the options Tasks to the left and Help to the right. Other keys are colour coded too: f7 is untitled but f8 is marked Save. The key in the top left hand corner of the keyboard, usually denoted "Esc" on a 102-key layout, is the traditional PCW Stop key, also in plum. The keys either side of the space bar are not the [+] and [-] of the 8000 series or the Alt and Alt Gr of the PC; both are labelled Task in white on plum, reminiscent of those on the Notepad 100 and 200 machines and have similar identical functions. f9-f12 are used within the various programs, eg, in the word processor touch the yellow f10 to edit a document or the green f11 to print it out. The word processor looks like a version of Word on the



Mac! There is a strip at the top with the options Tasks, Document, Edit, View, Insert, Style and Options, with Undo and Help to the Right. The command strip has Stop, document title and Bold, Underline, Italic and Spell all accessible with the mouse or command key. The third strip is the ruler with tabs and margin markers. The major change, however, is the true WYSIWYG presentation of the document. Words in 24pt Bold underlined appear as just that, not double thickness screen characters the same height as the body text. Italics show as true Italics, not just sloped Roman.

The spreadsheet looks very much like Excel on my Mac. There are differences, but certainly an advance on anything we've seen in a PCW before. It even looks like a Mac complete with Chicago style typeface and Graphics output too. I'm glad the third program is called Address Book for it would be unfair to call it a database. It is similar to those PC programs that let you to print pages for your Filofax. The screen presentation is of a page open in a Filofax with Name, Title, Address, Tel. etc. down the left-hand edge and blank fields for you to insert details which can be pulled into the word processor for mail-merging. The Diary/Alarm screen also looks like a page opening in a diary with the calendar for the month at the top of the verso and a digital clock beneath. To the right is a week-to-a-page diary ready for editing and updating. If you've used Sidekick on a PC you'll recognise the functions. The Calculator is also a Sidekick look-alike with mouse or keyboard operation with the four standard arithmetical functions, a single memory plus percentage, reciprocal, square root and change sign functions available. If you need scientific functions then you'll have to load the spreadsheet instead.

The final built-in program is like File Manager within Windows. You can view the directory on a disc and copy, delete or move them. Each file has an icon indicating the file type (document, spreadsheet, diary etc.) and a description which is not limited to the usual eight plus three character CP/M or DOS filename format. This manager also details the file size in K, the date and, new to the PCW, the time the file was last accessed or edited.

The 3½" High Density drive is capable of reading, and writing to, PC (DOS) 1.44mb discs, something that CP/M (even 2in1) never could, and also reading from low density 720k 3½" PCW discs - you can still import all your old PCW text files provided they are on 3½" discs. It is not at all clear if you can write to 720k discs in CP/M format (you can't-BW). There is seemingly no option for a second drive. The operating system was written especially for Amstrad for this new machine by Creative Technology. So will it run other PCW programs? Unlikely (at the moment-BW). Will it run MicroDesign? No, but has Simon something up his sleeve? (my lips are sealed-BW) LocoScript? As far as I can determine, No, (that's right-BW).

How about a hard disc? Well the one thing that does seem to be missing is an expansion port. But, in the DOS world, there are portable hard discs that can be plugged into a PC via the parallel port and used to expand the machine but then removed for security reasons. So perhaps a hard disc could be added via the Centronics port if the operating system will permit. (Watch this space-BW)

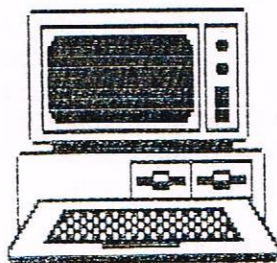
At the moment it is only orderable from Amstrad Direct. You can't go to Dixons and get a hands-on trial. (For revised delivery dates see below-BW) Personally, I sincerely hope this new PCW takes off as a much needed extension to the range. Will people buy it through a catalogue, unseen? Its price is attractive; still half the price of a PC. For a straightforward word processor plus spreadsheet plus scheduler it's very good value for the money. But it doesn't seem to be a computer as you and I know the PCW running under CP/M. I think Amstrad have got to get this out into the street so that it is visible to the buying public.

We have asked Amstrad for a demonstration of the new machine at the Club (with the night open to other clubs as the MicroDesign 3 evening) so that users can get their hand on it and get the feel of it. Amstrad's response was a hopeful "Not just yet but we'll let you know". We'll let you know as soon as we do!



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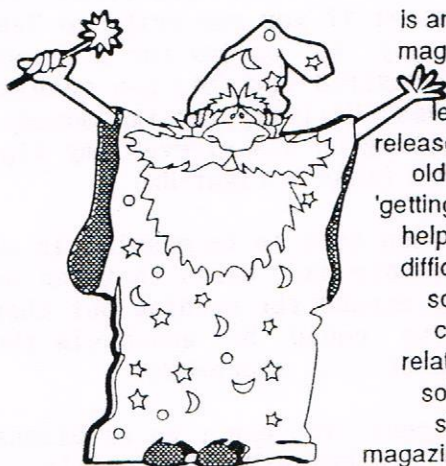
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WHAT'S IN A NAME? by Paul Howard.

Ever since the first affordable home computers appeared, manufacturers have strived not only for speed, graphics and sound improvements, but also to give their product a decent name.

The Spectrum, named after the seven colours of the rainbow, is generally regarded as a colour-deficient machine, and I would agree with this to a point since its closest rivals did have superior colour capabilities (the Spectrum can only have two colours, one brightness and one flash attribute per cell, unless special techniques are used).

A Commodore, says the Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary, is an officer intermediate between an admiral and a captain, or the senior captain in a fleet of merchantmen, or the president of a yachting club, or a commodore's ship. Since the Commodore computer is neither a high-ranking sailor nor an aquatic craft, the choice of name here is questionable.

The name Amstrad is an acronym of Alan Michael Sugar TRADING (he had to get his name in) but as he no longer supports his 8-bit machines (a statement overtaken by events-BW), I think the Amstrad clubs should rename their computers (or not-BW again).

For some reason, there was a period when fruit was popular for computer companies' names - Apple, Apricot and Acorn (the fruit of the oak tree, of course). Acorn's BBC Micro was named rather boringly after its sponsor company, the British Broadcasting Corporation, but then I suppose they were paid to call it that.

Incidentally, did you know that Sinclair's 48k Spectrum was originally planned to be the official BBC Micro? It's true! Thank goodness our beloved machine was never associated with such boring programmes! (Better than the official Channel Four micro though!). Acorn's next computer was the Archimedes, named after the famous philosopher whose name I've forgotten.

Other 8-bit computer names included

Colour Genie, Superbrain (I like that one), Tandy (probably someone's name) and the good old ZX80 and ZX81, named interestingly after their components and the years in which they were marketed. I have no idea where the name Atari came from, but Olivetti was the name of a maker of typewriters and Amiga means "girlfriend" - it ain't no friend of mine - more like a meagre machine! Commodore really do know how to put their foot in it.

But the award for the most boring computer name ever simply has to go to the PC. I mean, of course it's a bloody Personal Computer, but so is the Archimedes and *that's* got a name!

I'm sorry but I'll have to go onto the subject of consoles. Who on earth (or anywhere else!) could possibly think of such corny, American names as Megadrive, Mega CD, Super Nintendo...? They just stick Mega, Super, Cool or Radical on the beginning and that gives it "street cred", although I suppose that sort of name does appeal to spotty rich kids with nothing better to do than spend fifty quid a week on unoriginal, unchallenging, games. You can see how much I like consoles! As for Sega and Nintendo, they're just Japanese surnames as far as I know.

And finally, the Sam Coupé. If this name means anything, I'd love to know what it is! As far as I can see, it's just French for "Cut Sam"! Although, laughing at all these names, what would YOU call a new computer if you wanted it to sell?

If you have any comments, questions, or even a bit of spare cash lying about, please do not hesitate to send it to me! Also, why not send me your witty computer names while you're at it?. My address is as follows: Paul Howard, 36, Budes Road, WOKINGHAM, Berks RG40 1PJ.

By the way I'm also looking for +D snapshots of the following: .....

LEGAL WARNING, Matey!: I hope that you are also trading the original game tape with the snapshots, since this feature of the +D should only be used to make back-up copies of your own games otherwise you are infringing copyright.



## EMULATOR HEAVEN (OR HELL?) Part 2 By Mike Mee

I mostly use Spectrum emulators, followed by C64, Atari and Amstrad. As the favourite machines supported on the Internet they all have a Usenet group connected with them. In following issues you will read about (1) the utility to enable Atari owners to store disk images on the PC hard-drive and access them as a normal disk, (2) the Spectrum emulator with its many utilities, including a full Z80 disassembler for snapshot files, and (3) how a C64 owner can plug his 1541 disk-drive into his PC and transfer files to and from his PC.

There are some 8-Bit emulation terms which need explaining: **Snapshot** means an entire copy of the emulated computers' RAM is copied to a file on the PC's hard-disk (mainly Amstrad and Spectrum emulators). **Disk-Image** means an entire copy of a emulated computers' disk-drive is stored in a file on the hard-drive. It allows 100s of disks to be on a system, instead of several disk-boxes (mainly Amstrad, Atari and C64 emulators). **Tape File** is like a **Disk-Image** but applies to copies of the tape instead (solely on C64 Emulators).

The next issue will contain the first article covering the ZX Spectrum; by far the most popular system to be emulated. I have over 2700 programs for this on my hard-drive waiting for my next CD-ROM, and considering I gave up my Spectrum in 1987, there is still a lot of stuff I haven't got. Should you wish to get in touch with me regards any of the above machines, especially if you are running a PD library who can supply us with new files to transfer to the PC (or ones we are able to transfer), please write to me at the following address. Mike Mee, "Anncott", Hylas Lane, Rhuddlan, Clwyd. LL18 5AG. See you next issue.

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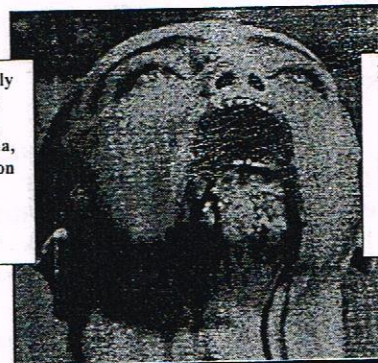
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## 2) A NEW PCW - OR A PCWhat? by Ed Harris

Well. The latest disclosure to filter out concerns Amstrad's new PCW. But *is* it a PCW? It has an increased clock speed from 5 to 16Mhz, so it will actually run faster than our trusty 9000 and 8000 models however it will not run LocoScript. Neither will it have a CP/M operating system. Which means that MicroDesign 3, Protext and all Shareware/ Public Domain programs will not run. What then, you might ask, are the benefits to counter so many bad points?

It will format its 3½" discs to 1.44k-compatible to PC's and, at a later stage, may also boast a hard disc drive. It will come with a standard 1mg of ram-instead of the 512k system. I am led to believe that it can be expanded to a maximum of 2mg-which is the present maximum, and the maximum for the Z80 chip which is still used in the PCW16. If this is the case then the new PCW will not be able to run Windows to any great degree-for which 4mg is the ideal minimum.

Locomotive Software are not involved in the development of this new machine at all. On the other hand, Creative Technology are helping to design the new operating system and, they tell me, are expecting to add a MicroDesign-type program to it at a later stage if (customer) demand is great enough. The PCW16 will run on a completely new and, as yet, nameless operating system, though it will be compatible with the DOS systems of PC'S, including MS-DOS.

Should we feel betrayed by this new machine? Certainly, both Amstrad and Creative Technology should have been a little more sympathetic to the needs of CP/M users - An Amstrad spokesman told me that CP/M was obsolete. I don't know which planet he lives on, but I hope that it isn't the same one that the rest of Amstrad do. And what of Creative Technology? Should they be reprimanded for deserting all of their faithful customers, who have struggled to afford the luxuries of owning MD3: Tweak: The Network etc? One thing is for sure, if you *do* upgrade to the PCW16, and MD3 is incorporated at a later date, you most certainly will not be able to use the Network on it, which was created solely to simplify the operation of CP/M via desktops under that system.

For those of us who have spent many hundreds of pounds on (mainly) Creative Technology products, it is something of a let-down to know that all of our PCW tools will be useless on the latest PC-aimed model. The trouble is the PCW16 is not a PC, so why go to the trouble and expense of creating this white elephant? Those who want to use Windows, MS-DOS, Multi-media etc will sneer at its puny 16Mhz clock speed. Even the old 286 PC's were faster, and they are more versatile and they can be bought for well under £200 these days, complete with colour monitor. Over the years I have invested hundreds, well into the thousand actually, of pounds in PCW-specific products and programs. I will not be able to transfer these to the new PCW16. We are going to end up with two completely different PCW systems. Those who run the PCW16 and the rest of us.

We will, of course, have to wait and see. Give the new PCW16 a fair crack of the whip, so to speak. But no LocoScript. That certainly takes some swallowing. You *will* be able to transfer your Loco files to the new system, but it will not run any of the LocoScript programs LocoFile; LocoMail; LocoScript.

Will there also be a separate PCW16 Owners Club for the elite few that choose to buy this model? I suppose that we should be grateful that Amstrad are continuing to support the PCW range, along with Creative Technology. But they are not, are they? If they had invested all of the millions of development money for the PCW16 in upgrading the existing machines and creating new, more powerful, programs to run on them, then we would all have benefited. To dump CP/M is, perhaps, the biggest mistake that both Amstrad and Creative Technology have yet performed. One that I am sure they will live to regret.



## RECENT READING RECEIVED:

**PCW Plus:** It's about time I revisited the last newsstand 8-bit magazine. Despite the usual plethora of knockers (which *all* the national magazines have attracted in their time), it still maintains a good balance between Locoscript and the rest, with the versatile Simon Forrester leaping in to address readers' more technical enquiries. If word processing is a significant part of your computer use, whatever you've got, I recommend it. As a national PCW forum it is unrivalled and after Christmas it should attract a new tranche of readers; use it or lose it.

**The Disc Drive:** Officially the magazine of the South Essex PCW Club, this is fast turning into a magazine of national importance, with just the right balance of content to appeal to all sorts of PCW users, and a nice, 'clubby' atmosphere. I don't know if either would appreciate it, but this seems to me the PCW equivalent of Format (see below). Write to David Lalieu at 10, Sheridan Avenue, Benfleet, Essex SS7 1RD with £1 for a sample copy and club membership details.

**Einstein Magazine and All Micro News:** This is the 'house magazine' of the Einstein User Group (UKEUG) and is quite the worst presented A5, 24 page, magazine it has been my good fortune to read. But it's hardly their fault if they are obliged, in the interests of economy, to use recycled paper on a very dodgy photocopier, and they are making efforts to get hold of better paper and equipment. At least they are keeping the magazine going rather than giving in to the difficulties.

The actual content of the magazine is very good indeed; a mixture of general articles and more technical features, and surely indispensable for an Einstein user (or owner who wants to *be* a user). All 51 back issues are still available providing a very comprehensive library of Einey information. For a sample copy, send £2 and an SAE to Tony Adams, *Ivy Cottage*, Church Road, New Romney, KENT TN28 8TY

**The Scotwest PCW Club newsletter:** I really look forward to this; it's only a floded A4 page but within its pages it carries Track (an advertising feature of stuff under £50) and concise articles of interest primarily to PCW users. For further details write to David Williams, 32/34, Carfin Street, New Stevenston, MOTHERWELL ML1 4JL

**WACCI:** A magazine, a club, a lot of paper .... It claims to be the magazine for the serious CPC user but that is interpreted as 'not games'. In fact, it is a mine of useful CPC information, much of it communicated through the readers letters column, and they also seem to have an inexhaustable stash of PD and 3" discs at very sensible prices. Send £1 to Paul Derryhouse, WACCI, 7, Brunswood Green, Hawarden, Deeside, CLWYD CH5 3JA.

**'Zine 64 Issue 2:** Chris Holgate is now in sole charge of 'Zine, and he is obviously working to improve what is already a bright and breezy A4 magazine with a very full disc. There is quite a lot of white per page at present, but the content is very good, not at all woffley.

I must mention that there are a couple of wonderful misspellings. For example, from the cover: "Your views on 'Zine reviled!" I think you may mean revealed, Chris? Then again.... I am sure 'Zine will continue to develop well, especially as one person now makes all the production decisions. It costs £1.20 (payable to C Holgate) plus a 5¼" disc and an A4 SAE from 45, Wheatlands Rd, PAIGNTON, Devon TQ4 5HX.

**CPC User:** Yet another club magazine, this time the organ of the UAUG CPC group. This has really changed for the better recently under the editorship of John Packham and now contains much of interest to non-CPC users as well. The group has a huge, and cheap, PD library including lots of CP/M titles. For a sample copy send £1.50 to UAUG, 19a, Obelisk Road, Woolston, SOUTHAMPTON, Hants SO19 9BL

continued.....



# PCW – PERSONAL COMPUTER WORD PROCESSOR

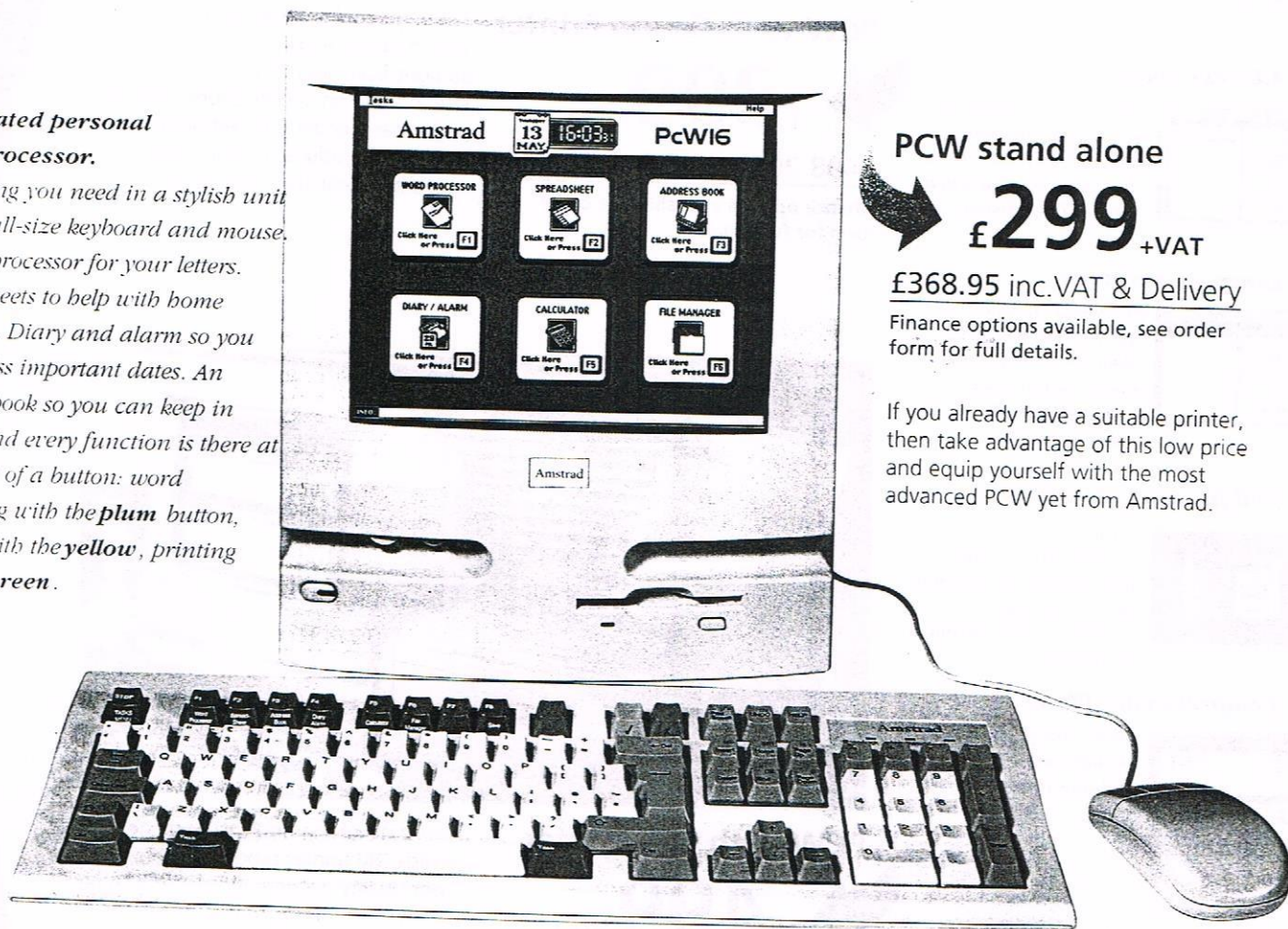
## *It's back and it's better than ever*

With 1.5 million sold since it was first introduced in 1985, the legendary Amstrad PCW is the most popular word processor the U.K. has ever seen. It even has its own user magazine - PCW Plus. Now, due to the widespread demand, the PCW is here again - only this time it's much more powerful and even easier to use. In fact, if you can use a pen, you can use the new PCW.

Thanks to the colour-coded keyboard, you only have to touch one button to access the advanced word processor: touch another and you're working on a spreadsheet, hit another and you can check your engagements for the day. Also, no matter what you are doing, help is always on hand, right there on the screen. Now that's computing made simpler than ever before.

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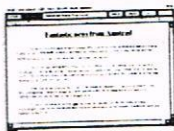
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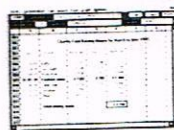
## Features:

### Advanced Word Processor



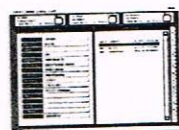
Packed with facilities including a spell checker, edit options, different fonts and styles, plus mail merge. The PCW does everything you'll ever need.

### Spreadsheet



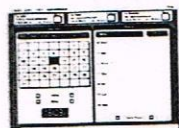
Ideal for creating invoices, quotations, costings and estimates. The PCW is perfect for keeping your accounts in order.

### Address book



Stores and automatically sorts all your addresses alphabetically; also allows mail merge when working with a WP document.

### Diary/Alarm clock



Includes a calendar, appointment book with either day or week views and an alarm clock - so your PCW can also organise your life.

### Full function calculator



Features include a giant number display, with % and memory; the calculator can also transfer calculations directly into a spreadsheet.

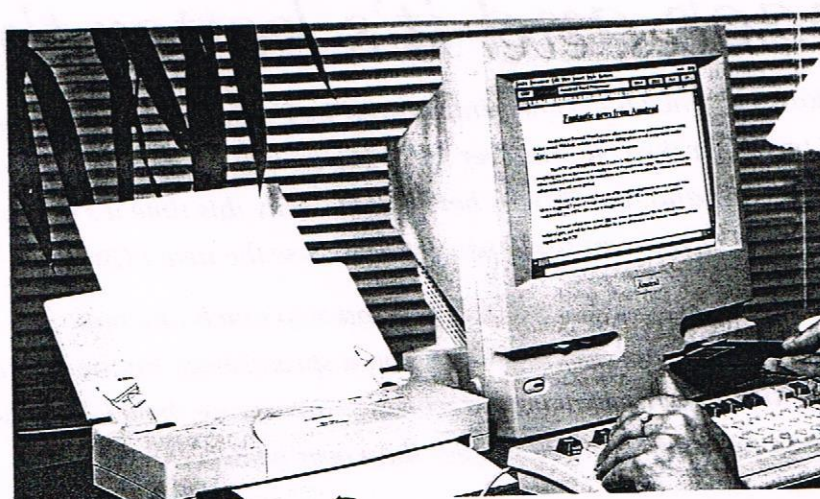
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Allows you effectively to manage, store, retrieve and copy files.

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- 12" paper white monitor
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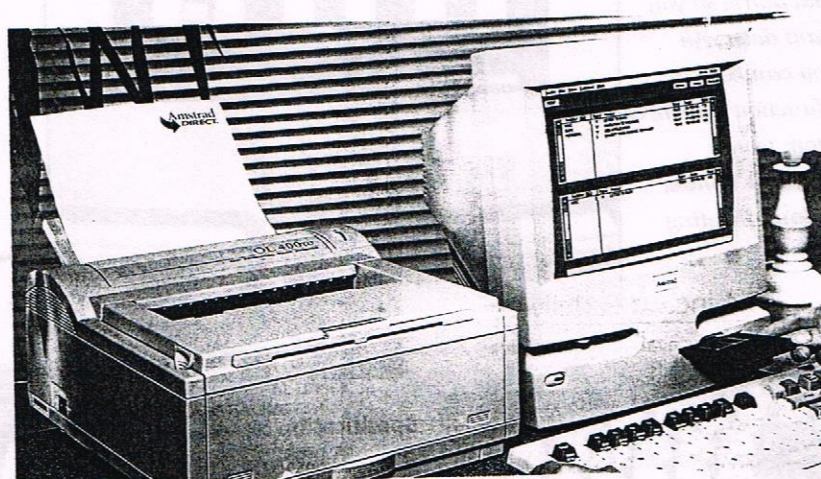
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This high quality ink jet printer allows you to produce documents and letters straight from your PCW. It's small in size, but big on specifications: with 30 page sheet feeder, innovative ink jet cartridge to reduce running costs, fast speed and near silent operation.



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## NOTES FOR ADVERTISERS:

- 1) Please help readers by giving your town's name and county if you are only quoting a phone number eg; 01353 (Ely, Cambs) 777006. Show any time limits you would like respected and give a name which a contact can ask for.
- 2) Please mention **8BIT** when responding to advertisements.
- 3) Advertisements for the next **8BIT** must be received by 15th January 1996.
- 4) Advertisements of over 50 words may be cut.
- 5) No guns, animals, cars or PCs allowed.

\* \* \* \*

## SINCLAIR SPECTRUM - FOR SALE

Loads of Spectrum/Sam stuff to sell. For lists apply to David Ledbury c/o **8BIT** enclosing an A4 envelope and 2 first class stamps. REF:Z

Spectrum +3 drive belts. £2.45 inc P&P from AJ Howard, 65, Altyre Way, BECKENHAM, Kent BR3 3ED REF:J

Your Spectrum 1-21 - £50; Your Sinclair 1-40 (not 35+38) - £60; Crash - 3,4, 6-56, 59, 60 63, 65, 67 - £85. All good condition incl supplements, posters, tapes etc. Prices incl p&p. Also 5 Comcon programmable joystick interfaces - £11 each incl p&p. Phone Terry 01489 (Southampton) 575319 REF:J

20 games incl Exolon, Predator, Rambo 3, Jet Pac, Green Beret. From 75p. SAE to St John Swainson, 7, Upper Hill Rise, RICKMANSWORTH, Herts WD3 2UU REF:I

Spectrum games for sale from 50p each. Send SAE for list to: Pauline Fuller, 4, *Whitehouse Cottages*, Sot's Hole Bank, Holbeach St Matthews, SPALDING, Lincs PE12 8EJ REF:P

Brother HR5 9-pin dot matrix printer (mains or battery) including transformer and spare ribbons. Uses FAX or plain paper. £35 or swap for Spectrum +3. Also many 3" disk games. Tel: 0181 427 9119 (Harrow, Middx.) REF:P

The 'Soccer Mania' compilation by Addictive (Microprose/Empire) for +3 on 2 3" discs comprising Football Manager II, Football Manager World Cup Edition, Microprose Soccer and Gazza's Super Soccer. £5 from **8BIT**, Harrowden, 39, High Street, Sutton-in-the-Isle, ELY, Cambs CB6 2RA REF:K

## SINCLAIR SPECTRUM - WANTED

Wanted for Spectrum Plus 3 - a word processor with print out facility with or without spell checker as well. Contact Geoff 0171 474 (E London) 2869. Leave information on answerphone with phone number or address REF:Q

Cassette lead for Spectrum +3 desperately wanted! Please write to: Nicholas Campbell, 24, Ballyminstragh Road, Killinchy, Newtownards, Co Down, N Ireland BT23 6RE REF:J

WANTED: a manual for a Spectrum +3. Please send the price/expenses asked to: Mr D Williams, 32/34, Carfin Street, New Stevenston, MOTHERWELL, Scotland ML1 4JL or Tel: 01698 732403 REF:P

Wanted for Spectrum +3 Multiface3. Willing to pay a good price. Also a copy of Zulu Wars on tape or disc. Willing to buy or swap for any games I may have of interest. Please contact Peter Stevens, 41, Nelson Street, Rosyth, FIFE KY11 2JU. Phone: 01383 419075 REF:P

Wanted: Any back issues and/or the covertapes of **Sinclair User** and **Your Sinclair**. Write with prices required to Nicholas Campbell 24 Ballyminstragh Road, Killinchy, Newtownards, Co Down, N Ireland, BT23 6RE REF: J

WANTED FOR SPECTRUM. Old platform and ladder games. Also any second-hand SAM software. Write to: John Turner, 58, Burnside, PARBOLD, Lancs WN8 7PE REF:I

## COMMODORE - FOR SALE

C64 bargain bin! Send me £1 and I'll send you a game. Games include Codemasters and others. Interested? Write to Denise, 48, Eastern Avenue, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts SN15 3LW REF:K

continued.....



## COMMODORE - FOR SALE - continued

Ludicrous amount of C64 games titles for sale, all in original boxes and most with instructions. Both disks and tapes. £5 per disk and £3 per tape; offers considered. For a list, send an A5 SAE to Commodore Magic, 5, Crane Avenue, Yaxley, PETERBOROUGH, Cambs PE7 3JH.

REF:J

C64, Vic 20 Quick Data drive new, boxed with blank microwafer and OS microwafer. Ceap, offers? Blank microwafers also available. Contact: Duncan Tizzard, Folly Farm Cold Ashton CHIPPENHAM Wilts SN14 8JR. Tel: 01225 (BATH) 891014 between 7pm and 9pm REF:Q

RETROS is a brand new company producing software for the C64. For a copy of our first compilation, The Magnificent Six, send a cheque or PO for £1.99 made payable to Matthew Withers to: Matthew Withers, Retros, 209, Ruskin Road, CREWE, Cheshire CW2 7JY REF:J

"FONTS FOR GEOS/1" - 21 original fonts for use with Geos. Most have multiple point sizes with pound (£) signs. Includes a graphic font to help design special dividers in your documents. 1541 disk. £3.99 including p & p in UK. Michael D Pearson, 31, Saxon Close, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 7DX REF:P

C64 games for sale from £1 including Codemasters titles and many more. Interested? Contact Denise, 48, Eastern Avenue, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts. SN15 3LW. Send SAE for lists REF:K

### COMMODORE - WANTED

Wanted: Commodore 64 contacts worldwide to swap games, demos, utilities, etc. Also wanted information on companies, user groups that sell C64 hardware/software etc. I also buy and sell 664 equipment. Contact Steve Morgans, 91, High Street, Colliers Wood, LONDON SW19 2JF or call 0181 540 5407 REF:I

Wanted! Vic 20 Software/Hardware etc. Contact: Leon, 348, Station Road, Winsford Cheshire CW7 3DG. Tel: 01606 861647. REF:J

WANTED: Trojan light pen, disk, and tape software for the Commodore 64. Also many items for sale and technical help given for free - just send an SAE or an international reply coupon. Write to Andrew Fisher, 2, Elfleda Road, CAMBRIDGE CB5 8LZ or call 01223 561433 weekends only REF:M

WANTED: COMMODORE FORMAT 40 (Jan 1994) in mint condition with/without covertape. Also Wanted - C64 cassettes in mint condition of: Jet Set Willy 1, Dictator by Dk'Tronics, Graham Souness International Soccer and Multimixx 5. Good prices paid. S Ross, 3, Deanbank Street, DUNDEE DD2 2EA REF:L

Wanted Printshop 64, new or second hand - must be complete. Manual for MPS801 and help with Speedscript. Contact M Surridge, 99, Canterbury Road, COLCHESTER, Essex CO2 7RY. Tel: 01206 792155 REF:O

WANTED! Commodore Format issues 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 35, 37, 40, 41, and 47 - all in vgc with tapes please. Also wanted: any old Zzap 64s, Commodore Forces, Your Commodores, or Commodore Users. All vgc with tapes. Any reasonable offers considered. Call 01427 (Gainsborough) 610912. REF:O

Wanted: Commodore 64 contacts in Cheshire please. Tape or Disk. Leon 01606 861647. REF:J

### COMMODORE - MISC

SIXTY-FOUR! Is an exciting new fanzine dedicated to Commodore 64 computers. It contains all sorts of C64-related material and even comes with a cover disk from issue 3 containing exclusive demos of upcoming games. Write, enclosing £1 and an A5 SAE for a sample issue, to L Bebbington, 348, Station Road, WINSFORD, Cheshire CW7 3DG REF:Z

### AMSTRAD PCW - FOR SALE

PCW Software and add-ons for sale: cut-price list sent free to any caller. 01704 (Burscough, ORMSKIRK) 895015. Owner is upgrading to PC. REF:J

continued....



## AMSTRAD PCW - FOR SALE

Quikmyth is an introduction to mythology. Buy this Locofile cross-referenced database and get Quikmyth 2 free. Quikmyth contains Greek myths. Your free upgrade will have Greek legends also. 3½" discs only. £7.50 includes p&p or send SAE for details. DJ Gaskin, 119, London Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4NP

REF:Q

12 brain-twisting games from SPARK Software for the PCW including Coconut Shy and Fishing. Send cheque for £5 to Mr C McKenzie, 20, Macclesfield Road, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1NR. Specify 3" or 3½" disc

REF:P

AMX Stop Press, Caxton Condor 1, Caxton Scratchpad+/Smartkey - £15 ea. Tas-Sign, Lord of the Rings game 1 - £10 ea, Synergy Saremaster, MAP Initnon ledger system - £20 ea. SCA Professional + interface - £45. Cut cable 9pin female to 25pin female - free. AEG Olympia FCC 1D2 interface 36pin to 20pin ribbon - £30. JR Cross, The Parciau, Clyro, Hay-on-Wye, HEREFORD HR3 5SG

REF:P

PCW DUPLICATE BRIDGE SCORING COMPENDIUM. A comprehensive range of easy to use programs for scoring most Mitchell and Howell movements. Full instructions can be displayed on screen or printed out. On 3" or 3½" disc. £25. FW Manders, 4, Carral Close, LINCOLN LN5 9BD Tel: 01522 721512 for details. REF:J

Masters with manuals: LS/LM temp disc £5, 3" Tweak £8, CP/M Superboss £5, Matrix Locofont £6, Flipper v3.10 £15. Peripherals: Canon BS10sx sheetfeeder (unused) £30. Hardware Wanted: memory card for NC100 notepad. Sybil Fox 67, Alder Lodge, Stevenage Road, LONDON SW6 6NR. 0171 381 1445.

REF:L

## AMSTRAD PCW - WANTED

Creative Technology TRACKBALL key mouse wanted for Microdesign on PCW. Must be trackball version. Details price, to Mike Elliston, 96, Sparrows Herne, BASILDON, Essex SS16 5EX

REF:L

Issue Dec '94 and 100 of PCW Plus, also Dec '86 of 8000 Plus to complete the South Essex PCW Clubs' reference

library. Contact Mike Elliston on 01268 (Basildon) 522484

REF:L

AZ-330 Olympus Super zoom camera with infra-red remote unit, filters, soft case. £175. Would consider part exchange for PCW hardware. Ted 01275 (Bristol) 340565

REF:O

Wanted: any help or information concerning PCW9256 - Programs, games, Locoscript 3, upgrade memory with chips, 3½" disks. Mr WA Warren, 25, Milton Avenue, ANDOVER, Hants SP10 3DP

REF:P

WANTED FOR A PCW: 'Grammatik' or any other program that checks Grammar on a PCW. Contact Jim French on 01268 415255. 14, Wheatfield Way, BASILDON, Essex SS16 6SN

REF:K

I would appreciate details of any items for sale or exchange related to PCW8512. Hardware, printers, software, peripherals, programs, discs, manuals, books, etc. Require especially any items related to Protext or Basic, and manuals for Microdesign, Masterfile 8000, Dbase II, Frank Bohan, 13, New Road, Elsenham, BISHOPS STORTFORD, Herts. CM22 6HA

REF:O

WANTED: Rombo Vidi set-up for a PCW, complete with instructions. Must be working! Please send details of price etc to: Mike Elliston, 96, Sparrows Herne, BASILDON, Essex SS16 5EX

REF:L

## PCW - MISCELLANEOUS

Any PCW users want to start a club in South London? Premises and equipment are available. Contact Mrs Sybil Fox 67, Alder Lodge, Stevenage Road, LONDON SW6 6NR. 0171 381 1445.

Berkshire Amstrad PCW Users Club offers you FREE telephone support, FREE magazine/book loan, FREE machine loan, FREE newsletter. FREE access to bulletin boards etc. FREE Special offers - eg 3" discs only £10 per 10. SAE for details to Ed Harris, 121, Bullbrook Drive, BRACKNELL, Berks RG12 2QR

REF:P

Many thanks to AJS of Huntingdon for his assistance in auto-booting my Stop Press program. I also have a 3½" Mini-

continued....



**PCW - MISCELLANEOUS - continued**

Office Professional program which cannot be modified using the method which worked for Stop Press. Any ideas how I can make this auto-boot on my PcW9256? I have 1.6M free in 'M'; all suggestions would be gratefully received. Keith J Bull, 60, Hildaville Drive, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex Tel: 01702 (Southend) 339894. REF:J

DTP PCW enthusiast? For a 3½" (large format) PCW disc full of scanned illustrations for MicroDesign 3 send £7 to include p&p to Brian Gildea, 63, Fareham Road, GOSPORT, Hants PO13 0AG or Tel: 01329 310573. Also scanning service offered up to 4" wide by as long as you like! REF:I

CAPITAL COMPUTER CLUB, Box 1100, Wellington, New Zealand. For your info old title since 1988 was 'Amswell' at same address. We now have members with Amstrads, Amigas, Macs, Sanyos and PCs with DOS and CP/M. We subscribe to PCW Plus so are well up to date. We welcome UK enquiries. Write to: Mr Max Sturgess at: 1/109, Watt Street, Featherston, Wairarapa. NZ REF:K

The Cornwall PCW Club meets on the second Saturday of each month (July and August excepted) in St Austell. All those interested in PCWs are most welcome to join us. Details from John Walker on 01752 (Plymouth) 706266 REF:P

TRACK is the name of the very useful free advertising feature section of SCOTWEST.pcw, the magazine of the PCW Club of the same name. For more details contact David Williams, 32/34, Carfin Street, New Stevenston, MOTHERWELL ML1 4JL Scotland REF:Z

**AMSTRAD CPC - FOR SALE**

Amstrad Action issues 52-55, 57, 59-64, 67, 69-72, 74, 75, 77-79, 81, 82 (no covertapes). £10 the lot. Telephone: 0161 439 (Stockport) 7034 7-10pm REF:R

Amstrad Action covertapes 35-51 50p each + p&p. Phone Derek on 01745 (Denbigh, Clwyd) 730498. REF:N

CPC6128 keyboard (good working order)

£30, green monitor £30, colour monitor £50, 464 (also 6128) sound synthesiser £30, Maplins 8-slot romboard + roms £30, external 3½" drive £30, 3" drive £10, AA mags and tapes for offers. Max, Mini-Office, Tasword, Golf, Chess, PD all on disks. Phone John: 01929 (WAREHAM, Dorset) 554109 REF:L

LOADS OF CPC ITEMS FOR SALE - Tapes, Discs, Magazines, Books. For list send a SSAE TO T.Davies, 8, Garden Suburbs, Trimsaran, Nr Kidwelly, Dyfed SA17 4AB REF:O

Amstrad Action covertapes 21-46 inclusive for offers. Amstrad CPC464 keyboard and CTM640 colour monitor for spares. Also massive collection of tape software to be included (for details send SAE) Only £50 the lot! Mr Peter Jones, Greystones, 27, Town Gate, Calverley, PUDSEY, West Yorkshire, LS28 5NW. Tel: 0113 (LEEDS) 2394011 REF:Q

Xenomorphs: new game by David Hall only £2. Also comes with previously unseen PD software. Send a 3" disc, SAE and cheque or postal order to:- David Hall, 280, Derbyshire Lane West, Stretford, MANCHESTER, M32 9LU. NEWS FLASH - mention 8BIT and save £1 (half price) REF:Q

For Sale: Amstrad Action 16-23, 25, 28, 30, 35, 37-39, 43, 48, 50-59, 71, 89, 91-95, 98-100. Amstrad Computer User Sep 86-Jul 89, Sep 89-Jun 90, Aug 90, Mar 92. Computing With The Amstrad Jun 87-Oct 87 + April 88. CPC Attack Jun and Sep 92. CPC Computing Dec 88. Many with cassettes. £1.50 each inc p&p. Discount for 5+. JW Gamble, 31, Cornmills Road, Soham, Cambs CB7 5AT. Ref:M

CPC games for sale. Most on disc, few tapes. Also Supercalc2 (Soft 07028 disc). Send A4 SAE for details. Miss C Hurlock, 8c, Hamlet Court Road, Westcliff on Sea, Essex SS0 7LX REF:P

Lemmings on disc for CPC. As new condition with manual. Offers around £5. A few other disc games available. Duncan Tizzard, Folly Farm, Cold Ashton, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts SN14 8JR. 01225 (BATH) 891014 7pm-9pm REF:Q

continued....



**AMSTRAD CPC - FOR SALE - continued**

CPC Plus/GX4000 games paddles, also suitable for CPC and others. Brand new £2, used £1.50. Burning Rubber cart new with manual £3.50. Non-working GX4000 unit almost new £5. Duncan Tizzard, Folly Farm, Cold Ashton, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts SN14 8JR. 01225 (BATH) 891014 7pm-9pm  
REF:Q

Brunword Elite Mk3 ROM module £60, 30 3" discs £15, replacement internal 3" drive £20. Tel: 01502 (Lowestoft) 518773 and ask for Jonathan.  
REF:L

Replacement disc drive belts for CPC and PCW 3" drives (also Spectrum?). Flat type belts with full but simple fitting instructions. £2.45 including postage and packing. Mr AJ Howard, 65, Altyre Way, BECKENHAM, Kent BR3 3ED  
REF:J

FOR SALE: a CPC6128 computer with colour monitor, extra external 3" drive, tape recorder, joystick, some games and some serious discs. Mini-Office 11. Offers. Tel: 01642 617656  
REF:O

Huge list of 2nd hand CPC tape and disc Software at sensible prices. All originals with instructions. Send 1st class stamp and return label for lists. BA Watson, c/o 8BIT magazine.  
REF:T

LOADS OF CPC goodies: Tapes, Discs, Roms, Books, Magazines and Hardware. For list send A5 SSAE: *Brympton Cottage*, Brunswick Road, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 3NQ.  
REF:P

Amstrad Actions: 29-41 (Feb 88-Feb 89), 46 (Jul 89), also ACU for May 1990. £1 each incl p&p. BA Watson, c/o 8BIT magazine.  
REF:T

KING ARTHUR'S DOMAIN is a disc PD Library for the CPC. We have games, utilities, music, clip art, a large selection of CP/M programs and lots more. For catalogue, send 3"/3½" disc + SSAE to: KAD, *Brympton Cottage*, Brunswick Road, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 3NQ.  
REF:Z

GD.PD: The ultimate in PD software at only 25p per disc side (copy charge) for your Amstrad CPC. For the GD.PD list send an SSAE to: Dave Stitson, 6,

Connaught Avenue, Mutley, PLYMOUTH, Devon PL4 7BX  
REF:L

ARE YOU A FRUSTRATED AMSTRAD CPC USER seeking help and support? Then why not join the **United Amstrad User Group** for a bi-monthly magazine, PD material (small copy charge), concessions and support, all for £8 per annum. Send SSAE to Gordon Wooliscroft, 2, Wrenbeck Drive, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 2BR for details.  
REF:L

**AMSTRAD CPC - WANTED**

Wanted AMX mouse for use with 6128. Reasonable amount paid. Telephone: 0161 439 (Stockport) 7034 7-10pm  
REF:R

Games wanted for CPC, tape or disk please. Send your price list to Martin Bela, 11, Colwell Drive, Brookside, Alvaston, Derby DE24 0UP  
REF:J

DESPERATELY WANTED; an internal 3" drive for my 6128+ (5v). Also Amtix issue 1. Angela in Worthing: 01903 206739  
REF:Z

Protext on ROM, and any other Protext series programs on ROM. Will respond to reasonable offers. Also Vidi wanted. Tel: 01502 (Lowestoft) 518773 and ask for Jonathan.  
REF:L

WANTED: Complete circuit board for 464 (Mk2 condensed version; IO/joystick ports on left side). Independent power supply (5v+12v output), for 6128 used without Amstrad monitor. Megamaths on tape or disc. Vgc daisywheels for Dyneer DW16. Write: Mr N Davies, Flat 1, 39, Broad Street, Newtown, Powys SY16 2BQ  
REF:N

Wanted AMSTRAD ACTIONS. Details of dates, cover tapes and price wanted for each to David Freeman, 24, Sandays Close, The Meadows, NOTTINGHAM NG2 2NP. Can collect within reasonable distance depending on quantity for sale.  
REF:I

WANTED: ACU for Nov '84 to Feb '85, Jun '86 to Oct '86, Sep '87 to Dec '87, April '90, Sep '90. Also Amstrad Action 1 and 2 and Amtix 1, 3 to 5, and 10-14. Also Pre-40 issues of WACCI, CPC User 1,

continued....



## AMSTRAD CPC WANTED - continued

any issues of **CPC Power**, **CPC Now** from 4 onwards, **Rundschlag** 1-8. Apply: Peter Curgenven, *The Hollyar*, Bay Road, Trevone Bay, Near Padstow, Cornwall PL28 8QZ. Tel: 01841 520875 REF:K

Wanted for the Amstrad CPC 6128: these adventures on disc - Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy (Infocom), Ingrid's Back (Level 9), Also wanted, these games on disc - Meltdown (Alligator), Knight Games (English Software), **Amstrad Action** magazines issues 1-7 inclusive. The cover prices offered. Jo Wood, 38, Stonehill Drive, Rooley Moor, ROCHDALE, Lancs OL12 7JN. Telephone: 01706 861185 REF:P

**Amstrad Actions** 3-20, 22-31, 35 & 51, ACU Jan-Aug '86 or before, Jul-Dec '87, all '88, May, Oct, Nov '90, Jun '92 on. CM14 colour monitor for Plus, 64k Dk'Tronics memory, and 3½" disc drive. Reasonable price paid. Contact: Christine Raisin, tel: 0115 (NOTTINGHAM) 9765163. REF:N

'ROMBO ROMBOX' wanted for original Amstrad CPC 6128. State the price wanted. Apply: Mr RE Hobday, 43, Cody Road, Clapham, BEDFORD, Beds. MK41 6ED REF:P

'DISC BASE' + a manual for CPC. £6 (incl p&p.) RE Hobday, 43, Cody Road, Clapham, BEDFORD, Beds MK41 6ED REF:P

## CPC - MISCELLANEOUS

Help needed to repair a Multiface 2 which becomes hot in use and ceases to function. Please contact Matthew on 01684 (Tewkesbury) 274993. Cost to be discussed REF:O

Free PD to all readers of **8BIT**. Adventures, Games, Demos, Slide Shows, for the Amstrad CPC. PD supplied on 3" and 3½" discs. Send SSAE for details and PD list to PD Fun *Folly Farm* Cold Ashton CHIPPENHAM Wilts SN14 8JR. REF:Q

**WACCI**. If you have a CPC then you need us. Send a 29p stamp to: **WACCI**, 7, Brunwood Green, Hawarden, Deeside, CLWYD CH5 3JA to see what you are missing! REF:T

**KING ARTHUR'S DOMAIN** is a disc PD Library for the CPC. We have games, utilities, music, clip art, a large selection of CP/M programs and lots more. For catalogue, send 3"/3½" disc + SSAE to: **KAD**, *Brympton Cottage*, Brunswick Road, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 3NQ. REF:Z

ARE YOU A FRUSTRATED AMSTRAD CPC USER seeking help and support? Then why not join the **United Amstrad User Group** for a bi-monthly magazine, PD material (small copy charge), concessions and support, all for £8 per annum. Send SSAE to Gordon Woolliscroft, 2, Wrenbeck Drive, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 2BR for details. REF:L

**Bonzo's Scrapyard** number 12a now available. The newsletter for CPC tape to disc transfers via the **Bonzo** suite of programs. Price - a large SSAE plus an extra 1st class stamp. From: **Bonzo's Scrapyard**, 29, Chapter Road, Strood, ROCHESTER, Kent. ME2 3PX REF:T

**GD.PD**: The ultimate in PD software at only 25p per disc side (copy charge) for your Amstrad CPC. For the GD.PD list send an SSAE to: Dave Stitson, 6, Connaught Avenue, Mutley, PLYMOUTH, Devon PL4 7BX REF:L

## MISCELLANEOUS SMALL ADVERTS

The **IEBA** (Independent Eight Bit Association) is a group active in promoting the use of 8-bit computers. The first edition of their **Directory of 8-bit Services** is due out in December. Membership is £5 for life. For further details send 2 first class stamps to Brian Watson c/o **8BIT** magazine. REF:Z

WANTED (for any 8-bit computers): any information on score-editing programs that support guitar tablature. It is important that the application must also support conventional music symbols and typesetting rules (as per a music magazine). Phone 01469 574248 (office hours); 94 Margaret Street, IMMINGHAM, South Humberside DN40 1JY REF:I

WANTED: Any programs, information, user support clubs, etc for the Texas Instruments TI199. Please send to David Ledbury c/o **8BIT** magazine. REF:Z



MISCELLANEOUS SMALL ADVERTS - continued

WANTED: A manual for Mannesmann Tally 290 printer. Please telephone first to 01253 (BLACKPOOL) 762092 REF:Q

ZX81's equipment for sale. ZX81s from £5, ram-packs from £2.50, leads and PSUs, printers and other equipment, all cheap. For list send ssae to Duncan Tizzard, *Folly Farm*, Cold Ashton, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts SN14 8JR PHONE: 01225 891014 REF:Q

FOR SALE. Star LC100 Colour Printer. Virtually as new; almost unused other than self-tests. 1 black ribbon + 2 4-colour ribbons, 1 metre Centronics cable, manual, original packing. £115. The intended use with existing inkjet not practicable. Purchaser to arrange the transport or shipping. N Bannister, 86, King Edward Drive, GRAYS, Essex RM16 4AQ. (01375 374732) REF:P

WANTED: Printer manuals for Epson FX-1000, Amstrad 3000, Dyneer Daisy DW16. Write (only) to Mr N Davies, Flat1, 39, Broad Street, Newtown, Powys SY16 2BQ REF:N

Atari 800XE/XL games for sale. Please send SSAE for list to Tim Asson, 29, Curlew, Wilnecote, TAMWORTH, Staffs B77 5PL or phone 01827 (Tamworth) 260729 after 7pm REF:J

LOADS OF GOODIES for your Spectrum, Apricot, Games console, PC: Tapes, Discs, Roms, Books, Magazines and Hardware. For list send A5 SSAE to: *Brympton Cottage*, Brunswick Road, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 3NQ. REF:Z

APPLE IIE with loads of spares incl. service manuals (massive), and cards, discs, motherboard, etc. Please write to: Mr N Woodbridge at 30, Hospital Street, NANTWICH, Cheshire CW5 5RP or phone 01270 628979 REF:T

Atari 800XL. Mint, 2 disc drives, Datacorder, loads of discs, plus spare keyboard. £40. Mr N Woodbridge, 30, Hospital Street, NANTWICH, Cheshire CW5 5RP. 01270 628979 REF:T

WANTED: Does anyone know of an Italian file for a spelling checker or

Italian spellcheck program? Write to Mr AJ Howard, 65, Altyre Way, BECKENHAM, Kent BR3 3ED (and 8BIT) REF:J

CP/M SUPPORT: The Public Domain Software Library, *Winscombe House*, Beacon Road, CROWBOROUGH, Sussex. (Tel: 01892 663298) owns large volumes of CP/M software from all over the globe. Send A5 SAE for their CP/M catalogue. REF:Z

TRADING POST, Victoria Road, SHIFNAL, Shropshire, TF11 8AF (Tel: 01952 462135) have a variety of unused 8-bit computers available and even complete ones for spares from £10 and hardware and software for all 8-bits computers. REF:Z

OJ SOFTWARE, 273, Mossy Lea Road, Wroughtington, Nr WIGAN, Lancs WN6 9RN for 8-bit software and 3" discs Tel: 01257 421915 REF:Z

WANTED: Bootup software for an Apricot computer. The machine was made in 1983, has a start-up test ROM but needs a 3½" CP/M boot to bring it back to life. Any data will be useful. Contact Roger Henson, 88, Falkner Street, Gloucester, Glos GL1 4SJ. Tel: 01452 303390. REF:R

Can anyone help, please? I have a Bondswell 2 computer (Z80 chip), also Wordstar, Mailmerge, a spreadsheet, a database and manuals. Can anyone help me choose and connect a printer to work with this lot or offer general help? Contact Roy Bates, c/o Cosgrove Marina, The Lock House, Cosgrove, MILTON KEYNES MK14 7JD REF:I

VERY ATTRACTIVE SHORTS

Unfortunately, I hear from Alexander McDermott that his magazine PD64 no longer exists. He doesn't say why but as he is offering to write for 8BIT it cannot be because he is short of time!

I am advised by David Ledbury of a SAM bulletin board: operated by Dave Whitmore, Dalmation BBS is available, on Saturdays only, from 12-12 (midday-midnight?) The number is 01744 614150. I suppose it knocks spots off the rest...

continued.....



## VERY ATTRACTIVE SHORTS - continued

Another policy change for **8BIT**: from now on, the magazine will not review magazines on tape or disc/disk or single-format programs. I own, or have access to, every major 8-bit computer. However, according to my recent survey, most of the **8BIT** readership do not, so there is little point in wasting the time of three quarters of my readers by giving irrelevant coverage.

In every letter to new readers I say that I do not wish to poach on the territory of computer-specific magazines and this kind of coverage is their domain, and what they can do well.

I am always pleased to give impartial *publicity* to other magazines and program publishers, but only those magazines which are accessible to all 8-bit users will be covered in depth in these pages.

\* \* \* \*

**Radical** have just sent me their latest list of CPC software. To get your copy of the list, or to offer your original program(s) for consideration for sale, send an SAE to **Radical Software** at *Brympton Cottage*, Brunswick Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN11 3NQ.

\* \* \* \*

You will find a new advertiser in this issue. One of our readers, Sybil Fox, has recommended them for their extremely prompt and friendly service. Perhaps you could give them a try. They are called **Midas Charity Ink**, run by Robin Hosford, and are an organisation whose profits are given to the **Headway** charity for victims of head injuries.

Among the services they offer are reinking printer ribbons and cartridges, supply of heat-transfer inks, clip-art discs for PCWs, and scanning *your* images for use as .CUT, .GRF, or .MDA files. Midas accept payment by Mastercard or VISA, but these are subject to a 4% surcharge. **Midas Charity Ink** can be found at *Kynance*, 5, Nelson Road, BRIXHAM, South Devon, TQ5 8BH. Tel/Fax: 01803 853144.

Following up on the policy change in column one, here is another one. I am scrapping the 'guarantee' of one page per issue of **8BIT** on each of the big 5 8-bits for the same reason; other people in other magazines can do it better.

From here on, these are the editor's priorities for including any material in **8BIT**:

[1] articles of general interest (eg Home Publishing, E-mail, the classic games, MIDI and music-making, tapes-loading and storage, etc).

[2] articles of interest to users of more than one 8-bit computer, but not necessarily to all (for example; 3" disc suppliers, transfers from an 8-bit to a PC or MAC, adding and using hard discs, the technical aspects of tape to disc transfers, Do It Yourself cartridge or ROM programming, using silicon memory - drive M: on a PCW or a virtual drive C: on a CPC, using Mini-Office, etc)

[3] articles on one of the 'big 5' according to what I have to hand.

This last area is what already causes accusations of bias, and always will. I could provide an additional single-format magazine but what's the point?

The on-going coverage of news on any or all machines depends on availability of copy, and not on personal prejudice. If any reader has experience of the older 8-bit machines, or is in touch with their user groups, please spread the word that **8BIT** is here to help support, and cover news about, them.

And lastly: **Trading Post** have stocks of all sorts of 8-bit goodies including; manuals, games, keyboard membranes, circuit boards, printer leads, cassette mechanisms, cartridges for the CPC Plus, even paddle controllers to replace a joystick on almost any 8-bit computer - I use one and find it's much better than using a 'stick - and, yes, 3" discs at £15 for 10. Phone them on 01952 (SHIFNAL) 462135 even if you don't have an Amstrad; they are always well-stocked with 8-bit kit.



**Outlet:** I've just caught up with Outlet, the long-running (since 1987) disczine from Chezron Software aimed at the more serious Spectrum hobbyist. Ron and Brian Cavers invite you to send a 3" disc to 34, Saltersgate Drive, Birstall, Leics LE4 3FF for a free sample issue and fuller details.

**Crashed Wow!** Full-colour cover, Babe with big, erm, copy of Crashed .. I think I'm turning adolescent! This really is a treat, and obviously a labour of love. Send at least £1 now to recapture that spirit of youth etc etc to 16, The Avenue, Manston, LEEDS LS15 8JN. The latest issue even includes an interview with Bob Brechley, which brings us to..

**Format:** Solid as a rock, steady without being boring, Format continues to serve Sam and Spectrum users with quality content. For example, the October issue contained a user's experience of a Spectrum emulator as well as another roundup of lottery programs which is used as the basis for a piece on sorting routines. Covering quite a lot of machine code, this is well worth a look by users of other Z80 computers. Send £1.50 to Format, 34, Bourton Road, GLOUCESTER GL4 0LE.

**SIXTY-FOUR:** The redoubtable Leon Bebbington has sent me his new diskzine out for Commodore users everywhere. Unfortunately although I have a C64, and a disc drive, the pesky cable to hitch it up to the aerial socket is out of order. So don't wait for me, send £1 to 348, Station Road, WINSFORD, Cheshire CW7 3DG forthwith.

**Mumpitz:** Once again, this German equivalent of 8BIT continues to be better than my magazine. Curses! It now has a coloured card cover and even more pictorial content to complement the excellent editorial. It takes me ages to decode even part of it (not being a German speaker), but if you are reasonably proficient, you would find it a worthwhile read. Send whatever you can afford (it's worth at least £2) to Hans-Christof Tuchen, Lotzstrasse 10, D-12205 BERLIN for a sample copy.

**PCW-SIG:** The latest issue of the newsletter of Mensa's special interest group for PCW users contains everything from a Pumpkin Pie recipe (Urgh!), through a very funny cartoon about upgrading the ram (it's another sheep joke) to some very sensible chat on things of a PCW nature. Write to Mike Crook, Flat One, Deer Park, DARTMOUTH, Devon TQ6 0RF. Incidentally, did you know I was going to join Mensa but I failed the physical.

**Electric Boys Newsletter:** Hot news, C64 fans; EBES now take credit cards! So steal your parent's cards, put on your deepest voice and order that hard drive you've been saving up for. Now seriously, that is very irresponsible of me and I'm very sorry for what was meant to be a joke. Russ Michael has now moved and to celebrate the event has piles of superb new Commi stuff coming in. Send £1 plus an A4 SAE for a catalogue to 2a, Woollaston Road, Harringay, LONDON N4 1SE without delay and make Russ busier than he already is.

**The Computer Journal:** What a gem! This card-covered American A4 magazine is everthing 8BIT aspires to be, with intelligent coverage of 8-bit and other older computers. Send \$34 (surface) or \$44 (air) for 6 bi-monthly issues to PO Box 535, Lincoln, CA 95648-0535, USA or you can phone your credit card order on 916 645 1670.

**MAGc**  
**Commodore ~~Mag~~** I'm fairly sure I had a call recently to say that this has recently changed hands. Lest you think I am going off the proverbial trolley, I should explain I've been producing/directing a play recently and it has been upsetting my usual sleep pattern. So when I have answered the phone during the evening I have sometimes taken a minute or two to return to the land of the living. Things *should* be getting back to normal now but...

**PS:** Steve Morgans caught me in a half-asleep state too a few days ago and said issue 2 of his C64 magazine is due out on 10th December. Phone him on 0181 540 5407 for further details. Yawn....



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### 3) PCW16: THE 8BIT POINT OF VIEW.

There's nothing the matter with my crystal ball, Mike, I'm please to say. When I dropped the hint about the new 8-bit, I had recently spoken to Amstrad's Ian Sayward, who is in charge of the PCW16 project, about finding him a freelancer programmer to work on an aspect of the programming, but I was bound by a confidentially agreement not to say anything definite until this issue. Also, earlier this year, I had received confirmation from another unimpeachable source that 8BIT's April Fool spoof in issue 5 (reprints available, £1.50!) was, by chance, not far off the truth, in terms of a new Amstrad Super 8-bit being in the pipeline. Apparently my article, which was entirely the product of my vivid imagination, raised some smiles *and* a little anxiety in Brentwood, where a leak was suspected. Incidentally, throughout 1995 I *kept* getting the 'new Amstrad multi-compatible 8-bit computer' story repeated back to me as if it was 'gospel truth'; this is the only time I have ever been able to fully account for a 'friend-of-a-friend' story.

I think much of the adverse criticism of the new computer is missing the point. This is not *first and foremost* a computer which is targeted at existing computer users, whether PCW/PCW users, other '8-bitters' or whatever. It is a very good entry-level computer aimed directly at potential new computer users who are scared of appearing to be stupid/incompetent once an expensive, multi-function, over-specified PC or MAC has arrived in the home. If you want an encyclopedia, go to the library and read a book, for goodness sake; it won't cost you a penny and you won't get eyestrain or a headache. Learning to turn pages does not require a manual *even* if it's done by a parent.

It is the logical choice to use a 3½" drive producing PC-format discs, but including some backward compatiblity for the few PCW users buying one, perhaps as a second machine. But I repeat, this is *not* what the PCW16 is principally for.

In a way it is a notepad machine for the desk top. All the most commonly used home computer functions, apart from game playing which is already better done by dedicated consoles, are all there (or will be) and appear easy to get into. In recent conversations with Ian Sayward, he said that many of the criticisms which have been voiced could be resolved by 'overprinting' the memory with other operating systems (such as CP/M) and programs (such as Prottext or comms software). I have just had a conversation with someone who has seen the machine running today (scoop!, scoop!) and he felt a graphics/DTP function should have been built in. The flash-loading system which was incorporated to allow for system upgrades appears much more flexible than that and might allow the options if demand is sufficient. As I say elsewhere, watch this space.

While discussing compatibility, why should it be able to run Locoscript which might now be regarded as an overpriced, memory-hungry, combined operating system and program suite? There will be cheap second-hand PCWs to be had for years; already there are plenty under £100 if you are prepared to look around the boot fairs and be patient, and the spares will be available too to cater for the many LocoFans. There is no reason you should dump the old machine if you have a PCW, and Amstrad don't expect C64, Spectrum, SAM or CPC users to bin their machines in favour of the '16.

I may get a PCW16: as a matter of principle I think the editor of this magazine *should* have one to run alongside all the others. What I hope is that it introduces a lot of *new* users to the many benefits of 8-bit technology, and thereby keeps enthusiasm for medium-tech computing thriving. I have already quoted the new machine on the air in the context of Prottext's relaunch as evidence of the viability of 8-bit computing.

Latest news is that the PCW16 will be available just after Christmas. Of all things it is the Word Processor which still needs some work. You see? They should have used Prottext; if it was good enough for the Notepads....





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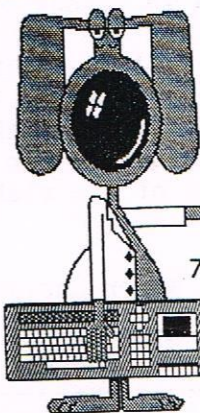
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**All quotes  
from 8Bit.**




Do you have a ghost writer in *your* printer? I have a Canon BJ200 bubble jet printer and, like most printers, the handbook indicates that my BJ has a couple of self-test and demonstration routines built in (as well as a self-cleaning sequence). These are activated by (1) putting a sheet of paper in place (2) holding down one or a couple of buttons and (3) switching the printer on. Depending on which routine you choose you are supposed to get either a repeating printout of all the in-built fonts or a wavy line printout to check the definition of the printing.

I have been in touch with Ian Parker (FOM) about this and he can get two very badly spelled similar, but different, letters to Arthur (dated August 1, 1984) from his Canon BJ200ex printer as well as a couple of other oddities. Lucky fella; he can get *three* beeps out of his printer if he holds down the on line button for longer than suggested when he switches on. And apparently one is done in smoothing mode. Mumble: "I never heard a printer yet that could be called smoothing."

I have only got one printer now (the Star Colour printer having been sold) so I cannot test it for spooks. I spoke to

While I must strongly warn against mucking about with DIP-switch settings, the combinations of the buttons on the outside of a printer case are fairly idiot-proof. However, neither 8BIT nor the editor can accept any responsibility for damage caused by such irresponsible tampering. Have fun and do let us know through 8BIT what you discover.

# COMMODORE ACTION



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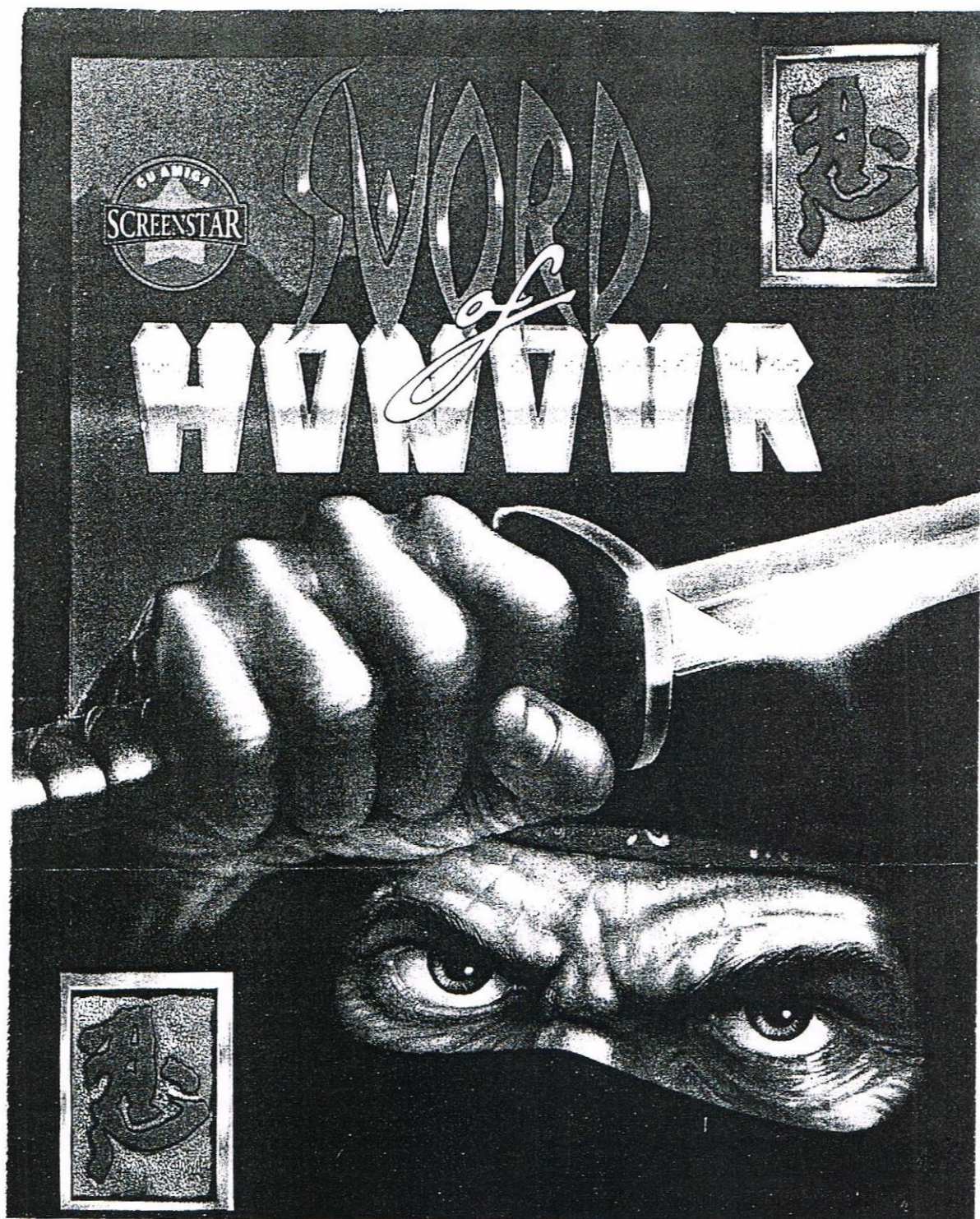
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## COMING SOON TO 8BIT

All the contributions from all the kind readers who have not yet seen their contributions in print. Once I've sorted out my printing costs there should be room.

### THE LEGAL STUFF

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## Können Sie deutsch?

Then you might benefit from reading 'MUMPITZ', which covers most 8bit computers and their emulators on Amiga and PC. MUMPITZ (= nonsense or rubbish) tests new products developed by german tinkers and gives tips for data interchange between the different systems and hints for the conversion of graphic formats. You will also find circuit diagrams for (new) hardware expansions.

MUMPITZ is a monthly mag and gratis (a kind of *paper shareware* - international reply coupons are welcome). For a test copy write to

**Hans-Christof Tuchen, Lotzestr.10,  
D-12205 Berlin**



## Bonzo's Scrapyard

*The occasional newsletter for Amstrad CPC  
tape to disc transfers*

29 Chapter Road, Strood, Rochester,  
Kent, ME2 3PX

Bonzo's Scrapyard, the tape to disc transfer information newsletter, using the Bonzo suite of programs, published quarterly, is available now from the above address. To receive a copy, send an A5 or A4 sized SSAE, plus an additional first class stamp.

### *The Bonzo programs are now on sale again*

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All the above programs available from the end of September 1995, please make cheques etc. payable to Mr D. A. Caleno.